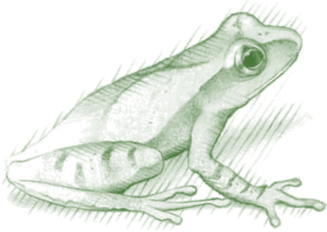


# CrosSection



## Inside this Issue

- Help Your Watershed:  
Arcola Creek Cleanup.. 1*
- Help us Keep In Touch I*
- Fresh, Crisp and Locally  
Grown ..... 2*
- Partial Scholarships are  
available for Ohio  
Forestry and Wildlife  
Conservation Camp..... 2*
- Bring on the Rain ..... 3*
- From the Farmer, to Your  
Table ..... 4*



## Help Your Watershed: Arcola Creek Clean-up

*Juliana Brotzman, Lake Erie College, Lake SWCD and Mentor Marsh Nature Center Intern*

After investigating a stretch of Arcola Creek that runs in the woods on Dock Rd. in Madison, it has become apparent that pollution in the creek is quite an issue. This part of the creek was littered with old tires, bottles and cans, broken toys, nursery pots, and a hodge-podge of other things.

Some of the trash, especially the tires, appear to have been there for years, sunken into the bottom of the creek or ensnared in the roots and brush on the banks. Bundles of branches and logs are in several areas of the stream, restricting flow and catching pollutants. All of this waste presents a hazard to plants and animals that live in the area and further downstream. Any pollutants that do not end up caught in the brush are swept downstream and eventually make it into the estuary and ultimately Lake Erie.



*Trash in Arcola Creek. Photo by Juliana Brotzman.*

Luckily you can help! Our spring creek clean-up is set for Saturday, June 14 from 9 am to noon. Registration is required and meeting locations will be given upon registration. Please call Maurine at 440-350-5863 to register. This is a great opportunity to get involved, give back to the community, and help your watershed!

## Help us keep in touch!

To reach our customers more efficiently and effectively, the Lake SWCD is trending to more web based/electronic communications. We still plan to produce the CrosSection Newsletter in the traditional format, but would like to provide more frequent updates and information pertaining to the Lake SWCD's activities and programs. To accomplish this goal, we will need your help! We currently have an email database, but would like to expand our coverage. If you would like to receive Lake SWCD information via email, please send a message to [soil@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:soil@lakecountyohio.gov).

This will also help us save on postage/printing cost and reduce the waste of paper. If you do not wish to receive future print editions of our newsletter, please contact our office at 440-350-2730 to be removed from the paper mailing list.

You can also reach us on Facebook! Visit [www.facebook.com/lakeswcdohio](http://www.facebook.com/lakeswcdohio) or search Lake Soil and Water Conservation District (Ohio) and Like our page!



## Fresh, Crisp and Locally Grown

*Natalie Gertz-Young Education/Information Coordinator*

After a long cold winter, few things bring more joy than fresh locally grown produce. In Lake and neighboring counties, we are rich with small farms offering their tasty bounty at farm stands and farmer's markets.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES COMING SOON TO A MARKET NEAR YOU:

**MORELS** - These wild mushrooms are considered by many to be the King of fungi. Their rich, earthy flavor makes any meal feel special.

**RAMPS OR WILD LEEKS** - Covering our native forest floors these members of the allium family have a grassy onion and garlic flavor.

**GREENS** - The peppery bite of Arugula, the sharp horseradish spice of Mizuna and Mustard, and the crisp crunch of lettuce, make these spring greens a welcome contrast to the rich comfort food of winter.

**LEEKs** - These mild onion cousins make a great springtime soup.

**NETTLES** - Nettles are high in iron, potassium, manganese, calcium and vitamins A and C. Cook and eat them in the spring as they are unpalatable later in the year.

**RHUBARB** - Red, tart stalks are delicious in sweet as well as savory dishes.

**ASPARAGUS** - Fresh spring asparagus is sweet and crisp. It is delicious eaten raw or gently cooked.

**PEAS** - One of the earliest vegetables, peas dislike the blaze of summer and are a sweet springtime treat.

**SPINACH** - These greens bolt at the first sign of summer's heat. Enjoy these meaty leaves through mid-June.

**HERBS** - Chives and mint bring fresh flavor to spring dishes.

**RADISHES** - Sharp and crunchy, these roots are great for more than just salads and crudité. For something new try them roasted or pickled.

**GARLIC SCAPES** - Look for these curly, green flower stalks of hardneck varieties of garlic in Late May through Mid June.

**STRAWBERRIES** - These sweet fruits will be ready for jams, pies and shortcakes in June.



*Plan on celebrating local food with us at FARMFARE!*

## Partial Scholarships are available for Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp

Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District is sponsoring partial scholarships to the Ohio Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Camp for qualified Lake County high school students.

Held annually at Camp Muskingum in Carroll County, this year's camp will run from June 8-13, 2014. The camp is designed for high school students, ages 15-18.

Completion of the eighth grade is a requirement. Students with an interest in natural resource conservation are strongly encouraged to apply. The cost of this camp is \$375 per student. The District will pay \$200 each, for two (2) Lake County residents.

Students must submit an application along with a letter of recommendation from a teacher by May 19, 2014 as well as a copy of the camp registration form. Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District will notify each applicant of their status by May 23. Scholarship winners will be responsible for transportation, personal camp needs and the remainder of the camp's cost.

Camp and scholarship information and registration forms are available at [www.lakecountyohio.gov/soil](http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/soil), as well as in our office.

<http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/Portals/20/EDUC/Forestry%20and%20Wildlife%20Conservation%20Camp%20Scholarship%20Informational%20packet.pdf>





## Bring on the Rain!

*Natalie Gertz-Young Education/Information Coordinator*

Spring means different things to different people, but one thing it means for all of us is rain. Where there is rain, there is runoff ponding, flooding, and mud. Luckily as a homeowner there are some things you can do to beat the muck and make a positive impact on our streams and rivers.

### INSTALL A RAIN BARREL

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rainwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff. Recent studies have shown that our lawns and gardens can contribute up to 70% of the pollution in our streams, rivers and lakes. Not only do rain barrels help reduce the ponding and flooding in your yard, they also reserve water for when you need it, so you don't have to turn on the hose to water your plants or lawn. Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer. Reducing stormwater and water bills, rain barrels are a win-win for the homeowner!

### PLANT A RAIN GARDEN

Rain gardens landscaped areas planted with perennial native plants which don't mind getting "wet feet". Built in a saucer shape, rain gardens are designed to increase infiltration by allowing rain and snowmelt to seep naturally into the ground. Rain gardens have many benefits: they recharge groundwater, improve water quality, provide habitat for birds and butterflies, and look great too!

### WORK WITH NATURE INSTEAD OF AGAINST IT

Mowing the lawn in the springtime can create a muddy mess. Save yourself some time and your lawn the ruts by mowing high (3 1/2 to 4 inches). Mowing high has many benefits including healthier grass, increased drought resistance and fewer weeds. And don't bother raking the clippings as they break down quickly and will act as a natural fertilizer.

Test your soil every 3-5 years and only apply what your soil needs. Lawn fertilizer with high amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen contributes to Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) in our lakes, ponds and Lake Erie. Alternately, gently nourish your lawn with sea kelp or compost tea.

Incorporate native plants into your landscaping. Native plants have long roots to stabilize soil and hold stormwater. They are also low maintenance because they are perfectly adapted to our climate. As an added bonus native plants are wildlife magnets: attracting butterflies, birds and gentle, native solitary bees.

## Rain Barrel Workshops

### Register through Lake Metroparks

Friday, May 9, 7-8:30 @ Fairgrounds  
Thursday, May 22, 7-8:30 @ Penitentiary Glen  
Wednesday, June 11, 7-8:30 @ Fairgrounds  
Saturday, July 12, 9-10:30 @ Penitentiary Glen  
Thursday, August 14, 7-8:30 @ Fairgrounds

### Register through The Holden Arboretum

Thursday, June 26, 7-8:30 @ Holden

### Register through City of Mentor

Wednesday, July 9, 6:30-8 @ Wildwood Center  
Wednesday, August 6, 6:30-8 @ Wildwood Center

## Lawn and Garden Workshops

### Rain Garden Workshop

Thursday, May 1, 7-8:30 @ Penitentiary Glen

### Healthy Habitat Lawn Care Workshop

Thursday, August 7, 7-8:30 @ Penitentiary Glen

**If your community  
would like to host a  
workshop please contact  
us at 440-350-2730 or  
soil@lakecountyohio.gov**

Want to learn more?  
Register for a workshop!



*District Administrator, Dan Donaldson explains how a diverter works to a group of Fairport Harbor Village residents.*



Recycled Paper

## From the Farmer, to Your Table

Support your local farmers by cooking a meal with local ingredients. With its tart, vegetable quality, rhubarb is a bright contrast to the heavy food of the winter season. Make sure to not eat the leaves as they contain toxic levels of oxalic acid.

### Skillet Rhubarb Upside-Down Cake

SERVES 8

#### INGREDIENTS

For the caramel:

3/4 cup packed dark brown sugar

1/4 cup granulated sugar

2 oz. (4 Tbs.) butter

For the fruit:

1 pound rhubarb, trimmed and cut on a very sharp diagonal about 1/2 inch thick

For the cake:

8 oz. (2 cups) cake flour

2-1/2 tsp. baking powder

1/4 tsp. salt

4 oz. (8 Tbs.) unsalted butter, at room temperature

3/4 cup sugar

1-1/2 tsp. finely grated orange zest

1 tsp. vanilla extract

2 large eggs

2/3 cup plain nonfat yogurt



#### DIRECTIONS

Heat the oven to 350°F.

**MAKE THE CARAMEL:** In a cast iron skillet, combine the sugars and butter. Cook over medium heat, stirring often, until the butter is melted and the mixture is smooth and bubbling. Scatter or arrange the rhubarb evenly in the caramel, Gently press the rhubarb into the caramel. Set aside to cool while making the batter.

**MAKE THE CAKE:** Sift together the cake flour, baking powder, and salt. In a medium bowl, beat the butter with an electric mixer until smooth. Gradually add the sugar and continue beating until fluffy and lighter in color, about 3 min. Beat in the orange zest and vanilla. Add the eggs one at a time, beating briefly after each addition. Sprinkle half of the flour mixture over the butter mixture and, on low speed, mix just until the flour disappears. Add the yogurt and mix until just blended. Gently mix in the remaining flour. Scoop large spoonfuls of batter onto the fruit; spread the batter evenly in the pan. Lightly tap the pan on the counter to settle the batter. Bake until the cake is golden brown and a pick inserted in the center comes out clean. Start checking at 30 minutes, it may take up to 45 minutes. Immediately run a paring knife around the inside edge of the pan. Set a flat serving plate on top of the pan and invert the cake. Let the inverted pan rest for about 5 min. to let the topping settle. Gently remove the pan and serve the cake warm or at room temperature.



**Lake County Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

125 E. Erie St., Painesville, OH 44077

Phone: 440-350-2730

East End: 428-4348 ext. 2730

West End: 918-2730

1-800-899-LAKE ext 2730

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am-4:00 pm

E-mail: [soil@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:soil@lakecountyohio.gov)

Website: [www.lakecountyohio.gov/soil](http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/soil)

#### Staff

DAN DONALDSON, District Administrator	350-2030
NICK AGINS, Resource Protection Technician	350-2032
NATALIE GERTZ-YOUNG, Education/Information Coordinator	350-2033
JOHN NIEDZIALEK, Resource Protection Specialist	350-5860
MAURINE ORNDORFF, Watershed Coordinator	350-5863
NRCS Field Office, Orwell	437-5888

An Equal Opportunity Employer: All Lake SWCD and USDA programs and services are available without regard to race, age, gender, national origin, political beliefs, color, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

#### Board of Supervisors

SKIP DUGAN (2014), Perry, Chair  
LARRY KLCO (2014), North Perry, Vice Chair  
DICK KENNELLY (2016), Willoughby, Secretary  
BRAD SHAWHAN (2015), Mentor, treasurer  
JEFF HYRNE (2015), Madison Twp., Fiscal Agent  
**Member of:**  
Lake County Farm Bureau  
Nursery Growers of Lake County Ohio  
National Association of Conservation Districts  
Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts